THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India and Singapore met on March 30-31 and May 8-9, 2006. The two sides reviewed the implementation of the India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

(c) and (d) India-Singapore CECA, comprising of, *inter alia*, Agreement relating to Trade in Goods, Services and Investment, is already in force from 1st August, 2005.

**Hike in cement prices**

*476. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during the last three months cement prices hiked upto 40 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any regulatory authority or any institution is there to control the prices/rates of cement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Cement prices have increased since December, 2005 at varying rates across the country. The cement manufacturers have cited an increase in the input costs as the reason for the price increase.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Cement is not a controlled commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and its prices are not regulated.

**Funds under SGRY**

†*477. SHRI KANJIBHAI MAGANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the funds provided in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.